CCH17

August 27, 1925
Circular Letter No. 15

To Supervisors of Schools.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

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NOTE: Part referring to Englishonly has been copied

TEACHING OF ENGLISH

In practically every town we find a few teachers who are weak in English and cannot teach this language in a satisfactory manner. It is unfair to these teachers to ask them to teach a subject which is difficult for them and still more unfair to the pupils who are not taught correct English. Very often these same teachers do excellent work in Spanish, Arithmetic, etc. They should, then, be asked to teach these subjects.

In order to make the teaching of English more effective, you are hereby authorized to have primary-grade teachers who are especially qualified to teach in English give the English class in some other room besides their own. The teacher thus relieved may teach some other subject in the room of the teacher taking charge of her English class.

In the past, the continental teachers have been assigned to upper-grade work. In many cases they have taught History, Geography, Arithmetic and Physiology. For the coming year, where local conditions are favorable, continental American teachers should first be assigned to classes in English. If their programs are not full, they may be assigned to other subjects taught in English. The Porto Rican teachers of English will teach the other subjects. In this way, it will be possible to have teachers whose native tongue is English teach in the intermediate and primary grades.

You are requested to discuss the plan with your continental teachers and find out which ones have had experience in the grades in the States and who are best fitted for such work. You should, then, assign them to the grades where they can do more good.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) JUAN B.HUYKE

Commissioner of Education